

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-1314

Office of Governor Patrick Quinn  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Attorney General Lisa Madigan  
500 South Second Street  
Springfield, IL 62706

Speaker Michael Madigan  
300 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Representative Tom Cross  
316 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Senate President John Cullerton  
327 Capitol Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno  
309 A State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Quinn, Attorney General Madigan, Speaker Madigan, Representative Cross, Senators Cullerton and Radogno:

As you are well aware, Governor Scott Walker of Wisconsin recently signed legislation legalizing concealed carry in his state. In doing so, Wisconsin became the 49th state to recognize this Second Amendment freedom and made Illinois the sole state in the nation which refuses to do so.

Exceptionalism can often be a positive thing, but in this case it is a mark of shame. In refusing to pass legislation legalizing concealed carry, Illinois is denying its law-abiding citizens the ability to protect themselves, their families, and their property.

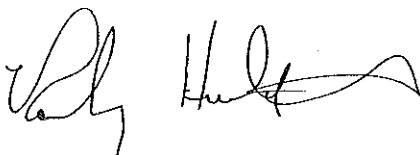
Self-defense is a fundamental right, and the Supreme Court has recognized that in two recent rulings. In *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008), the Supreme Court ruled that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual's right to possess a firearm. In *McDonald v. Chicago* (2010), they ruled that the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms for self defense in one's home is fully applicable to the states through the Fourteenth Amendment. We agree with the Supreme Court and believe that the citizens of Illinois deserve to have the same protections afforded to them as the citizens of the other 49 states.

After numerous court cases and years of real world practice and legal precedent, the safety and practicality of concealed carry has been proven time and time again. Twenty-three states have adopted right to carry laws since 1991 and in that time violent crime has declined by 43 percent. The FBI has also reported that total violent crime and murder dropped more than six percent during the first half of 2010.

Research on right to carry laws has shown them to be a deterrent to crime and a useful tool for self-defense. Criminologist Gary Kleck analyzed National Crime Victimization Surveys and concluded, "robbery and assault victims who used a gun to resist were less likely to be attacked or to suffer an injury than those who used any other methods of self-protection or those who did not resist at all." A study for the Department of Justice found that 34 percent of felons had been "scared off, shot at, wounded or captured by an armed victim," and 40 percent of felons have not committed crimes, fearing potential victims were armed.

It is time for the Illinois legislature to act, and permit Illinoisans to join the rest of the nation in their ability to carry concealed weapons for self defense.


Sincerely,



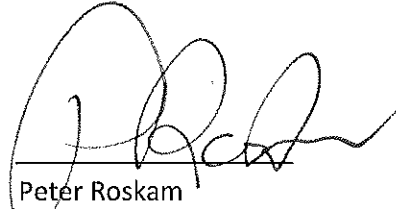
RANDY HULTGREN

Member of Congress

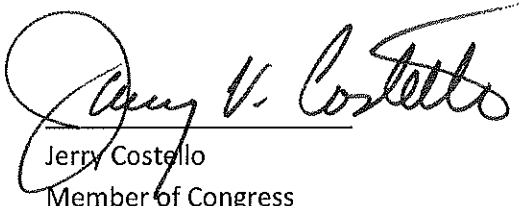
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Judy Biggert  
Member of Congress



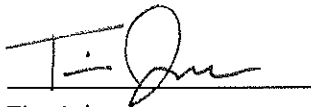
Peter Roskam  
Member of Congress



Jerry Costello  
Member of Congress



Bobby Schilling  
Member of Congress



Tim Johnson  
Member of Congress




Aaron Schock  
Member of Congress



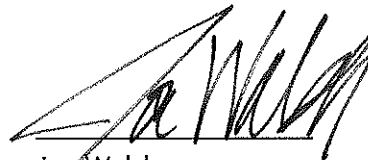
Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress



John Shimkus  
Member of Congress



Donald Manzullo  
Member of Congress



Joe Walsh  
Member of Congress